

When did you first “discover nuclear”? I was born into it! My entire family works in the industry, and I discovered the halls of the NRC when I was about five years old. Little did I know then, I would one day end up working there myself.

What’s the best career advice you have received? When I worked at the NNSA, former administrator Tom D’Agostino gave the young, entry-level employees a list of recommendations

on how to succeed in a federal bureaucracy. I still have this list with me to this day, coffee stains and all! It served me well during my time at the NNSA and the NRC.

What’s on your bucket list? I’m working on seeing every national park in the United States. I’m about one-third of the way there—although I’m giving myself grace if I don’t make it to American Samoa!



Youho Lee

Lee leads nuclear fuel materials research at Seoul National University. His rapid rise—from KAIST student to UNM faculty to SNU professor—reflects his exceptional initiative. He has built a research group of 21 members and secured high-impact programs

Age: 39

Title: Associate professor, Seoul National University

Hometown: Korea

and funding portfolios that advance nuclear materials research. His work on Cr-coated accident tolerant fuel and his integrative approach linking materials to systems is innovative.

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As Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Nuclear Energy Institute, Hilary is recognized for her leadership in building alliances with new-to-nuclear investors and customers, and expanding opportunities for clean, reliable energy.

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